

**V. REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20050192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir discloses a gaming machine display which includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement, in use, so that, depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. The game playing arrangement includes a mechanical, symbol-carrying arrangement. The symbol-carrying arrangement has a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. The display element has a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement. The display screen is a multi-layered structure that includes a monitor on which images are to be displayed. The monitor overlies a shutter mechanism.

The courts have required for §102 anticipation that a single reference teach (i.e., identically describe) each and every element or step of the rejected claim or else the reference falls under §103. Atlas Powder v. E. I. du Pont, 750 F.2d 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984), Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Industrial Products, 756 F.2d 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a cabinet, at least one decoration panel disposed on the front of the cabinet, a display device including a mask panel having a plurality of display windows provided therethrough, the display device mounted on the front of the cabinet and adjacent the at least one decoration panel, the mask panel defining an imaginary plane, a plurality of rotary reels operative to rotate about a common axis of rotation and positioned in a juxtaposed manner inside the cabinet, each one of the plurality of rotary reels having a plurality of symbols disposed on respective outer peripheries thereof, forward most ones of the plurality of symbols being visible through respective ones of the display windows and at least one light

source unit disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the at least one decoration panel with the at least one light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a longitudinal axis and including an elongated illuminating lamp and an elongated reflection plate positioned adjacent the illuminating lamp and with the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate extending parallel to one another and to the common axis of rotation.

Claim 1 recites that the at least one decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the illuminating lamp reflected from the reflection plate, the at least one light source unit is disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacts the imaginary plane and the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted from the illuminating lamp and by reflected light being light emitted from the illuminating lamp and reflected by the reflection plate.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach an elongated reflection plate as claimed in claim 1. Furthermore, it follows that the applied art also fails to teach that the illuminating lamp and the reflection plate are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted from the illuminating lamp and by reflected light being light emitted from the illuminating lamp and reflected by the reflection plate as recited in claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Claim 3 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a cabinet, a display device having a mask panel formed with a plurality of display windows extending therethrough with the display device provided on the front of the cabinet and with the mask panel

defining an imaginary plane, a first decoration panel and a second decoration panel disposed apart from one another on the front of the cabinet with the display device positioned therebetween and extending parallel to the imaginary plane, a plurality of rotary reels operative to rotate about a common axis of rotation and positioned in a juxtaposed manner inside the cabinet with each one of the plurality of rotary reels having a plurality of symbols disposed on respective outer peripheries thereof and with forward most ones of the plurality of symbols being visible through respective ones of the plurality of display windows, a first light source unit disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the first decoration panel with the first light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a first longitudinal axis and including an elongated first illuminating lamp and an elongated first reflection plate positioned adjacent the first illuminating lamp such that the first decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the first illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the first illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the first illuminating lamp reflected from the first reflection plate with the first longitudinal axis extending parallel to the common axis of rotation and a second light source unit disposed inside of the cabinet and behind the second decoration panel with the second light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a second longitudinal axis and including an elongated second illuminating lamp and an elongated second reflection plate positioned adjacent the second illuminating lamp with the second longitudinal axis extending parallel to the first longitudinal axis and the common axis of rotation.

Claim 3 recites that the second decoration panel is illuminated by light illuminating from the second illuminating lamp and the forward most ones of the plurality of symbols are illuminated by the light illuminating from the second illuminating lamp and by light illuminating from the second illuminating lamp reflected from the second reflection plate. Claim 3 also recites that the mask panel is disposed between the first light source unit and the second light source unit with the first light source unit being disposed apart from the display windows and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane and with the second light source unit being disposed apart from the display

windows and longitudinally contacting the imaginary plane. Additionally, claim 3 recites that the first light source unit and the second light source unit are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted by the first and second illuminating lamps and by reflected light being light emitted from respective ones of the first and second illuminating lamps and reflected by respective ones of the first and second reflection plates.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 3. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach an elongated first reflection plate and an elongated second reflection plate as claimed in claim 3. Furthermore, it follows that the applied art also fails to teach that the first light source unit and the second light source unit are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted by the first and second illuminating lamps and by reflected light being light emitted from respective ones of the first and second illuminating lamps and reflected by respective ones of the first and second reflection plates as recited in claim 3. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a cabinet, at least one decoration panel disposed on the front of the cabinet, a display device including a mask panel formed with a plurality of display windows provided therethrough with the display device mounted on the front of the cabinet and with the mask panel defining an imaginary plane, a plurality of rotary reels with each having a plurality of symbols on an outer periphery thereof with the symbols being visible through the display windows and with the plurality of rotary reels operative to rotate about a common axis of rotation and positioned in a juxtaposed manner inside the cabinet, at least one light source unit for illuminating the at least one decoration panel from the inside of the cabinet with the at least one light source unit extending longitudinally along and about a first longitudinal axis and with the first longitudinal axis extending parallel to the common axis of rotation and at least one reflection unit for guiding the light emitted from the at least one light source unit.

Claim 4 recites that the at least one reflection unit is disposed adjacent the at least one light source unit, extends along and about a second longitudinal axis with the second longitudinal axis extending and parallel to the first longitudinal axis and the common axis of rotation. Claim 4 further recites that the at least one reflection unit is arranged to guide the light emitted from the at least one light source unit to illuminate the plurality of symbols provided on the rotary reels. Also, claim 4 recites that the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit is disposed apart from the display windows with the at least one light source disposed between the at least one reflection unit and the display windows and the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit longitudinally contact the imaginary plane. Furthermore, claim 4 recites that the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted from the at least one light source unit and by reflected light being light emitted from the at least one light source and reflected by the at least one reflection unit.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 4 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach at least one reflection unit as claimed in claim 4. Furthermore, it follows that the applied art also fails to teach that the at least one light source unit and the at least one reflection unit are arranged so that the plurality of symbols are illuminated by light emitted from the at least one light source unit and by reflected light being light emitted from the at least one light source and reflected by the at least one reflection unit. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 5-7 depend from claim 4 and include all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite. For instance, each of claims 5-7 recite the feature of at least one reflection unit. As indicated above, the applied art fails to teach a reflection unit or a reflection plate of any kind.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

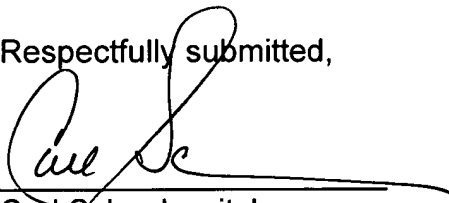
It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal

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